THE

Last Years Transactions

VINDICATED

FROM THE

ASPERSIONS

Cast upon them in a

LATE PAMPHLET

ENTITULED,

Reflections upon the Occurrences of the Last Year, from Novemb. 5. 1688. *to* Novemb. 5. 1689. &c.

Published by Authority.

LONDON:
Printed for *Richard Baldwin* in the *Old-Bayly.*
MDCXC.

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To the Right Honourable

CHARLES

EARL of *SHREWSBURY*,

Principal Secretary of State, *&c.*

My Lord,

TO whom can I better Addreſs a Vindication of the laſt Years Tranſactions, *than to a Perſonage who has Acted ſo Great and Noble a Part in them, and who has Entailed upon him a rare piece of Happineſs of being loved by all Parties? Since then, Your Lordſhips Conduct has placed you out of the Road of Malice it ſelf;*

self; It's but Reason you allow your Patronage to what's Written in Defence of others, that meet not with the same good Fortune from the World. And thence it is, that I expect Your Lordships Pardon for this Address of

My Lord,

Your Lordships most Humble,

and Obedient Servant.

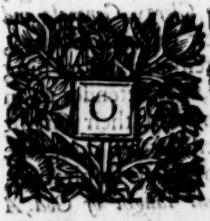
THE

THE

Last Year's TRANSACTIONS

VINDICATED,

From the Aſperſions caſt upon them in a Late Pamphlet, &c.



OF a great many *Maxims of State*, by which the *Republick of Venice* has ſupported it ſelf, amidſt the *Revolutions* of *Twelve hundred* Years, this is none of the leaſt, That *to Pry too narrowly into the Secrets of the Government, or to throw duſt upon the publick Actions of the Senate, tho under pretence of giving counſel, is a crime puniſhable in a private perſon with death.* The nature and ſafety of the *Body Politick*, requires a ſecrecy in the actings of thoſe at the Helm; and that Government was never happy or long-liv'd, where all the *Springs* of its Motion were laid open to the View of the Vulgar. Without this *Seat of Secrecy*, the greateſt Deſigns, tho never ſo well laid, have proved but Abortive; and the deepeſt Contrivances, even for the good of the *State*, if once taking vent, they vaniſh into Smoak.

The open and bare-fac'd *Tranſactions* of the laſt Reign, as they evinc'd the weakneſs of the *Government*, and yet by diſcovering

the imminent Ruin that threatned us, put us upon means for our Delivery; ſo the ſame openneſs of Counſels, which occaſion'd ſo good an effect *then*, has brought along with it ſince, this accidental inconvenience, That we expect to read the deſigns and methods of the preſent Government, with the ſame eaſineſs we did thoſe of the laſt. King *James*'s Counſels were too Tranſparent, not to be ſeen through by the weakeſt eye; and becauſe he render'd the very *Mob* Politicians, by making all the World acquainted with his unſteady Meaſures; we muſt now forſooth pretend to the ſame freedom, under the Reign of one of the cloſeſt Princes that ever ſway'd the *Engliſh* Scepter.

Of this kind of folly, we have a freſh inſtance in a *late Pamphlet*, intituled, *Reflections upon the Occurences of the laſt Year, from* November 5. 1688, *to* November 5. 1689, *&c.* Wherein the Author, as from the *Delphian Tripos*, and animated with an Enthuſiaſm like to that which attended the delivery of the fallacious Oracles of old, ruſhes into the Myſteries of State, turns *Caſuiſt*, *Critick*, *Divine*, *Lawyer*, and *Stateſman*, all at once; and in each of theſe Capacities, gives a convincing proof to mankind, how unſafe it is to wander beyond our proper *Sphere*. To cenſure not only the Politick, but Religious Actions of *Kings*, *Parliaments*, *Privy-Counſellors*, *Miniſters of State*, *Clergy*, *Generals and Officers of Armies*, and to dictate to them their reſpective duties, with an αὐτὸς ἐφη, is a Province never man attempted before him, and which none but the Author, or a *Viſionair*, and pretender to an Enthuſiaſtick Illumination, would have ventur'd their Credit upon: And indeed there are ſo many expreſſions all along the Pamphlet, that ſmell of the late deluded Notion of Inſpiration, ſuch as theſe, *Not to be learned in Schools, but taught of God*, *A child of Light*; *Not having the good Spirit*; *The attainment of Perſonal Perfection*; and a great many others of that kind, that I am willing to impute our Author's Indiſcretion, not ſo much to ill nature, or want of kindneſs to his Majeſty, as to an excentrick Zeal, puſh'd forward by what the Quakers call an *Impulſe*.

One would have thought that the Character His Majeſty has acquir'd in the world, of a *Stay'd*, *Cloſe*, *Brave*, *and Juſt Prince*, long before he came to deliver an ungrateful Nation: And that the inimitable Conduct by which after the oppoſition of a powerful

erful Faction in his Minority, he had attained to the highest Place, in the Power and Affections of a Neighbouring *State*, even beyond that of his Glorious Ancestors, and had render'd himself the Center of all the Motions abroad, that tended to the Liberty and Safety of *Europe*: One would have thought, I say, That those bright Jewels might have dazled an inferior Spectator with their Lustre, and at least, have secured His Majesty from a great many Reflections in this Pamphlet; the mentioning which in any other Place of *Christendom*, yea, even in *France* it self, would have been rewarded with Contempt and Hate, and the fairest Quarter the Author might expect, would be, to be treated as a Melancholly deluded Person.

The Author has exposed himself to a severer Answer than I am willing to give him: And the rather, because the King by a Prodigy of good Nature has laid aside the Resentment such a Pamphlet would have met with in any Reign but *His*: And where the King forgives, it's ill manners to stint the Royal Bounty, by ill Treating the Criminal. Hence it is, that laying aside all bitterness against the Author, I shall confine my self to the Particulars most material in his Book, without giving my self, or the Reader, the trouble of taking notice of a great many other things therein, which neither need, nor deserve to be mentioned.

Neither need I repeat what our Author tells us in his first three Pages, *Of the Wonderful Deliverance of this Kingdom from the* Spanish *Invasion*, Anno 1588. *nor of the* Gun-Powder-Treason, some seventeen years thereafter; nor shall I trouble the Reader with a Repetition of the wonderful Steps of Providence our Author acknowledges to have concur'd in His Majesties Descent into *England*, and in His Attaining the Crown. These things are so conspicuous in themselves, that they admit no further Luster either from his Pen, or mine. In short, these three Kingdoms saw themselves *upon the Brink of Ruin, their Rights and Liberties invaded, their Religion within an ace of being overturned, their Laws and Constitutions renvers'd, the the whole Scheme of their Ancient Government unhing'd:* And to compleat their Misery, they saw no probable way of escape. His present Majesty, in the time of this Abyss of our Woes,

liv'd Happy and Great in a Mighty State, where the Affections of the People, and the Power entrusted him, render'd him equal to Kings; and where, free from the pompous Weight and Pageantry of a Crown, His Figure in *Christendom*, and his universal Influence on its Motions, came nothing short of *those* who wore *one*.

Thus it was with *Us*, and thus was it with the then *Prince of* ORANGE, when our Prayers, Tears, and repeated Sollicitations, forc'd him from a People, who paid him the highest, and the most grateful Veneration; and obliged him to break off a long Tract of unenvied Glories on the *Continent*, that he might at the hazard of all that could be dear to him, attempt the delivery of these two *Islands*, and that in the worst Season of the Year, from a Fate that seemed to any Soul less Great than His, to be irretrievable. The incident Circumstances that attended him in *his Descent into* England, *in the pannick Flight of King* JAMES *from* Salisbury, *the inglorious manner of that Prince's Abandoning his Kingdoms*; *and in the unanimous Addresses made His present Majesty, first to Accept the Government, and thereafter the Crown*, carried along with them evident Prints of a Divine Influence, beyond the beaten Path of humane Affairs.

But our Author comes to tell us, *page* 5. That *after all this successful Progress, our Affairs are now at a stand, and move but slowly, like a bewitched Cart he has heard of, that at first, was easily drawn, but of a sudden became immovable.* How silly are Mens Apprehensions, when they will needs meddle in Matters foreign to their *Genius*, or *Station?* The Author resembles exactly a weak-witted Passenger, that had never been at Sea before; when shut up under Hatches, he fondly imagines the Ship not to move, because all things within the narrow Compass of his View, continue still in the same Position. But in the mean time, the Pilot and Sea-men on the Deck, without being at Pains to undeceive him, are putting all the Secrets of their Art in practice, towards the forwarding the Vessel through the Waves to the Harbour. Because the confined Sphere, in which our Author moves, allows him not the Knowledg of Affairs of State, and that his short line cannot Sound the bottom of His Majesties Counsels, he fondly concludes

concludes, That certainly the *Machine* of Action is ſtopt, ſince he comes not to be acquainted with all the hidden *Springs* of its motion.

Notwithſtanding that the Tranſactions at the Council-board, and thoſe which Reaſon and Policy keeps hid from common view, be beyond the reach, or at leaſt out of the road of private men; yet I muſt ſay, a man muſt be both deaf and blind, that obſerves not our Affairs going on every day, in a method agreeable to the Concurring Emergents, and ſuch as muſt naturally attend a Kingdom upon the back of ſo ſurpriſing a *Revolution*. Does there a day paſs, without ſome one ſtep or another, in order to the compleating our ſettlement, either in the *Parliament-Houſe*, at the *Council-Board*, or in Cultivating our *Alliances* abroad, and concerting meaſures with our *Confederates?* God Almighty when he Created the *Univerſe*, was pleaſed to do it by degrees; And that Immenſe *Being*, who could have heap'd up Millions of Worlds in a moment, thought fit to beſtow ſix days in the Creation of *One*, that thereby he might teach Man a Copy *of an orderly and ſucceſſive progreſs in human Affairs*. But our Author's precipitant Zeal cannot be confin'd to a Copy, though drawn by the Pencil of Heaven; nor to that eſſential Law of Motion it ſelf, which require a *gradual progreſs*: He would needs be at the *Mark* in a moment, without paſſing the neceſſary *midſt* to it. And a Twelve-months time is but too long, with this hot Politician, to have ſet at *rights* Three of the moſt disjointed Kingdoms this Age has ſeen; which to have brought the length they are already, all conſidering Men, ſome Months ago, did think might take up near half a Jubilee of years. The *Simile* our Author uſes of a *bewitch'd Cart*, ſavours as much of his unacquaintedneſs with Philoſophy, as the thing he illuſtrates by it, does his little skill in Politicks: And it's no wonder, that he who is ſo inclinable to believe a groſs Miſtake in the Motion of *natural Bodies*, ſhould commit ſo many in his Reflections on the Motions of the *Body Politick*.

In order to prove that *our Affairs were ill-manag'd immediatly after His Majeſty's accepting the Government*; Our Author comes in the next page to inveigh againſt *the delay of ſetling the Militia, and Juſtices of Peace through the Kingdom, which*, he ſays, *was*

not

not done a great many months after His Majesty's coming to the Crown. This is a groundless Calumny, and one which all *England* can disprove. King *James* having gone away himself, and left behind him an Order for *disbanding the Army*, merely to put the Nation in Confusion, and thereby *to gain his ends of us* (as one of his Favourite Counsellors express'd it) the only means then left us to prevent a destructive *Anarchy*, and our cutting one another's Throats, was to invite our *Deliverer* to accept of the Government in this dismal *Interregnum*, till such time as the *Representatives* of the Nation could meet to provide for the common Safety, by setling a lasting Establishment. His Majesty grants our Request, and falls immediately upon the hardest and greatest Task that ever was put upon a Prince. In short, He had no fewer or easier things to do, than *To issue out Writs to call a Convention*; *To provide Money upon his own Credit, to pay off a disbanded Army in our Bowels*; *To see to our Security against their Attempts*; *To remove such Officers as were not to be trusted, and to grant new Commissions to those who better deserved them*; *To ship off for a Foreign Service the* Irish *Regiments, who must either have knock'd us on the head, or been in hazard to be so done with themselves.* He had no less to do, than *To keep a watchful eye upon a considerable Party, who were ready to take the occasion of our unsetled Condition, to embroil us in new Confusions*; *To send an immediate Assistance to a Neighbouring State, not only in execution of the* English *part in the Treaty of* Nimeguen, *but in lieu of the Forces the* Hollanders *had lent him, even then when they needed them most themselves.* He had all these things to do, and a thousand others, and in the mean time to manage the important and weighty Character of *Stadtholder*, and *General* of the *United Provinces*, already in war with *France*; and to concert new Measures with the *Confederates* abroad, King *James*'s unexpected withdrawing, having doubtless altered the *Scheme* of the old ones; all which pressing Affairs, and the difficulties that attended them, would have sunk with their weight the most firm and resolved mind. Good God! I cannot reflect upon our condition at that time, without Horror and Amazement: If I should compare it to the Confusion at *Babel*, the Comparison would fall far short; for it admits of no Idea from any thing that has hitherto been. But because I know no better, let us

but

but Imagine we ſee before us that *Towring Pile*, which ſeem'd once to out-brave Heaven, lying now overthrown in Prodigious Heaps and Mountains of Rubbiſh: All the materials of the Mighty Fabrick are with an afrightful Confuſion repreſented to the eye, and the firſt *Chaos* ſeems again to be renewed. Here the Stones, Wood, and Lime; there the Bricks, Iron, and the reſt of the disjointed parts that made up the Structure, lie all of them diſplaced, and yet mix'd together in an aſtoniſhing kind of Diſorder: And, to add the laſt ſtroak to this amazing *Landſcape*, let us imagine that ſome millions of people, concerned in rearing up again this Heap, are all of different Affections and Opinions about the manner of rebuilding it. In this Caſe, the on-looker would have reaſon to doubt a poſſibility of putting this dreadful Wreck of Nature into any method, and would be apt to entail a ſhare of ſomething more than Human upon Him that could ſet all theſe disjointed Materials in their proper places together, and erect out of them a Regular Building.

Juſt ſo it was, or rather worſe, with *England*, upon the late King's withdrawing: The Frame of Nature, as it related to us, ſeem'd to be diſſolv'd; and inſtead of Government, the neceſſary Cement of Human Society, we were in a moment reſolved into an inexpreſſible Confuſion; and, which added to the ſeeming impoſſibility of our Recovery, we were all of us disjointed among our ſelves, in Intereſt, Religion, and Opinion. To have ſetled *Us* within the ſpace of ſome few days, in that very Order we were brought to when the Convention came to meet, was a ſignal demonſtration of His Majeſty's Conduct, and of an application of Mind ſcarce, if at all, to be equall'd in Hiſtory.

The *Convention* meets; and it was no wonder ſo ſurprizing a *Juncture* ſhould take up all their thoughts, and ſo much of their time, before they came to a Reſolution in the weightieſt Affair that could concern a Nation, *viz. The ſetling of the Crown.* Whatever our Author may fondly think, Crowns are not to be diſpoſed of in a hurry: and the declaring a Throne Vacant, and the filling it up, was ſo far from requiring leſs than twenty days, as our Author ſuppoſes in his Complaint, *pag.* 10. that it argued the greateſt expreſſion of their Gratitude

tude to GOD, and to the then *Prince of Orange* as his Instrument, the greatest Concern for their Countrey, and the greatest Sense of the Hazard they had partly escaped, and yet partly fear'd, that they came to the *Important Decision* so soon.

But both before and after His Majesty's accepting the Crown, all necessary and just Caution was used in all the Counties of *England*, to prevent any new Troubles, though indeed the Consternation of the Enemy, and the universal Zeal of Friends, rendred that Caution almost needless. Our Author, like one come from another World, and without Acquaintance in This, complains, That for several months there were no Justices of Peace, nor Officers of the Militia setled. Need I to tell him, That in *London*, the Epitome of *England*, and the place of greatest Example and Importance, as likewise in all the other Corporations of *England*, the old Magistrates, who are by their Places *Justices of Peace* within their Towns, were re-instated by King *James* about the time of the Prince's coming over: and so as to *Corporations*, the Civil Authority was lodged in them, whom the Laws before and since have only made capable of it, and the King had nothing to do in the authorising those whom the Laws did authorise to his hand.

As to the *naming of Justices of Peace, and the Officers of Militia in the Countrey*, His Majesty had reason to rest assured of the promises of a great many *Noble Persons*, then attending him from all the Counties of *England*, who had declared for him, and had put the several Counties in a sufficient posture of Defence, and thereby opportunely and successfully exercis'd the Offices of Justices of Peace, and Officers of the Militia themselves, and had commissionated others, for whom they were answerable, to the same effect. Notwithstanding even this assurance those Noble Persons gave His Majesty, of having left the Military and Civil Power in good hands at their coming up to *London*; yet nevertheless, His Majesty, the very day after his accepting the Government, being *December* 30. 1688. put out his Declaration for authorising Justices of Peace, Sheriffs, Officers of Militia, to act till further Order, as likewise, as soon as these above-mentioned Noble Persons their necessary attendance at the Parliament-house could be dispens'd with, His Majesty could not rest satisfied, until he had sent them back

back to their reſpective Counties, in order to a more full and legal Setlement of the Juſtices of Peace and Militia. And ſo eager were ſome of theſe Noblemen in the execution of their Commiſſion, by lodging thoſe Offices in good hands, that they forgot to ſue out their own particular Warrants till ſome while after their return. So that theſe Noble Perſons, their officiating as Lieutenants of Counties without a formal Commiſſion, was a certain Indication, That they burdened themſelves with the Security of thoſe Counties; and that they were ſo intent upon the doing of it, that they could not allow themſelves to miſemploy any part of that time, in troubling the King with all the Formalities of a *Written Power* for what they did.

Our Author comes, page 6, and 7. to charge the Government *with the ill management of the Affairs in* Ireland, *in that the Arms and Ammunition deſigned for* Londonderry *arrived not till* March, *and the Forces under* Richards *and* Cunningham *not till* April; *That the laſt, by deſerting the Service, proved a Diſcouragement to the Beſieged; and that the Town was not relieved till the* 30*th of* July. And then, in the next Period, he accuſes the Government, *for not ſending over Forces enough to ſubdue that Kingdom; and that when they were ſent, they did not anſwer the General's expectation, having done no conſiderable Service by them to this day.* Concluding this part of his Charge *with our long diſappointment of the* Daniſh *Forces*; and aſſerting plainly, *They will prove a greater Burthen than Advantage to us.* Behold a dreadful Charge before an imaginary Tribunal! but ſuch a Charge, as to be able to prove it, muſt require ſomething mix'd to Omnipreſence and Omniſcience. For to know the truth of all the particular Articles of this Aſſertion, our Author muſt be at *London*, *Cheſter*, *Highlake*, in ſeveral parts of *Ireland*: He muſt be likewiſe in *Denmark*, upon the Sea betwixt Us and It; on the *Engliſh* Channel, and that of St. *George's*, and a great many hundred other places; and that all at one and the ſame time. But not only ſo, but a Man who can know all the Branches of this Charge, muſt have that Immenſity of Knowledge, as to be acquainted with what was

transacted at the *Council-Board*, with every Dispatch sent by, or to the *King*, *General*, *Admiral*, and every Officer in the Army; yea, he must claim an acquaintance with the thoughts of Mens hearts, since, without that, he cannot come to know what he tacitly insinuates, *of a wilful Neglect in the Management of* Irish *Affairs*.

But as to this heavy Charge, which not only the Author, but some other well-meaning People, are apt to swallow down for want of considering; I shall lay before the Reader the following Considerations, by way of Answer to it.

1. I have hinted before at that affrightful Confusion we were reduc'd to, upon the late King's *withdrawing*, till His present Majesty was declared King. He had brought over with him but a handful of Men; and those who had declared for him, were for the most part either ill disciplin'd, or dispers'd up and down the Countrey for securing it against the Attempts of those of King *James*'s *Party* and *Religion*. The Disbanded Army, on the contrary, were well disciplin'd, many of them old Soldiers, and wanted but an opportunity to run to a Head, and were in the mean while ready to pillage the Countrey for the Arrears of their Pay; which they must either have done, or starved: The Fleet was as yet in hands he was not assured of; many of the Officers being King *James*'s Creatures, and some of them *Roman Catholicks*, and all of them behind in their Pay.

For the King in such a Juncture to have parted with any of his Forces for *Ireland*, was contrary to all reason; for he must have either parted with *some of those he brought with him*, or with *some of those who joyn'd him*, or with *some of King* James's *Disbanded Army*. To have parted with the *First*, whom he had known for a long tract of time devoted to his Interest without Reserve, was indeed to lay himself naked in a strange Countrey, to a People of whose Fidelity He had not yet had time to make trial: and His Majesty acting, as the Law calls it, *qua homo prudens*, could not put himself upon *so unnecessary a piece of Confidence*, to change in so perplexed and dangerous a Juncture, the Forces of whose Fidelity he was fully assured, for *Others*

tha

that had but come in to him the other day, and many of them become of his side as much by the persuasion of their Leaders, as from Inclination; And besides, the Forces His Majesty brought with him, were so few as could not well be divided. To have sent over *some part of the Forces that came in to him*, was both Unreasonable and Impossible. *Unreasonable*, from what I formerly hinted at, of his not having time to try their Fidelity, or to make choice of Officers to command them. *Impossible* it was, there being no Money left in the Exchequer to pay them; and to provide at that time so vast a Sum as *their past Arrears, and Transportation, and a Fund for their future Payment*, would amount to, was utterly beyond His Majesty's power to effect. To have sent over into *Ireland any part of the Disbanded Army*, I hope no man would have approved it; *That* had been indeed to give them the opportunity of once more trying their Fortune for King *James*. In fine, from what I have said, it was both *Impossible* and *Unreasonable* for His Majesty to send over Forces to *Ireland* before he was proclaimed King.

2. How much his Majesty was in capacity to relieve *Ireland* for several months after his coming to the Crown, and what Methods He and his Ministers used to Save that Kingdom, and afterwards to Reduce it, will best appear by a Narrative of the publick Transactions and Circumstances relating to *Ireland* and *Irish* Affairs, and leaving the Reader to judge from thence, Whether the Author's Charge be groundless, or not.

Their Majesties were proclaimed on the Thirteenth of *February*, and the first *Money-Bill* was not past in Parliament, till the 21*st* of *March*; and could not be Levied for a considerable time thereafter; nor did it amount to the half of the Arrears due to the Army and Navy, and other necessary debts. The next *Supply* was that of the *Poll-Bill*, past the *First* of *May*, which for some Months thereafter was not all got into the Exchequer, and fell far short of the Parliaments Estimation of it. Now notwithstanding of this Slowness in coming in of Money, His Majesty shewed His Earnestness to Relieve *Ireland*, to that height, as to order Ammunition and Provision to be sent to *Londonderry*, even before he was Proclaimed King; and thereafter within two weeks after His

Acceſſion to the Crown, he ordered another Supply of Forces under *Richards* and *Cunningham*, which came to be Shipt in the 3d of *March*; the *Firſt* came in good time; and I need not enlarge upon the Reaſons of the Miſcarriages of the *Second*; the *Printed Account* by Mr. *Walker*, does it for me; and it's but juſt that *Collonel Lundie*'s own fault ſhould be laid at his own door alone.

The Forces ſent with *Richards* and *Cunningham* being thus unhappily returned, His Majeſty applied himſelf in the mean time, to ſend over a greater Force under *Major General Kirk*, till He ſhould have in readineſs a conſiderable Army to follow them. The Forces under Major General *Kirk* were Shipt for *Ireland* in *May*, and through contrary winds could not fetch the *Lough* below *Londonderry*, till the Fifteenth of *June*, and for Reaſons mentioned at length in Mr. *Walker*'s Account could not get up to Relieve the Town till the laſt of *July*.

While theſe Forces were on their way for Relief of *Londonderry*, His Majeſty was inceſſantly giving Orders to his Army, to march from all Places of *England*, to *Cheſter* and *Liverpool*, in order to their Tranſportation under the Command of the *Duke of Schonberg*: And in ſpite of a Thouſand Diſcouragements not to be here named, the *General* took Journey for *Cheſter* on the Seventeenth of *July*; and after having taken time to review and give neceſſary Orders for his Army, he ſet Sail on the Twelfth of *Auguſt*, and Landed at *Bangor* the next day, having ſome days before, diſpatch'd *Four* other Ships with Proviſions for *Londonderry*.

Here we are come to the latter end of *Auguſt*, in our Account of the Affairs of *Ireland*; and pray what more could have been done all this time, conſidering the Circumſtances we lay under? After the Landing of the Army, the firſt Action Duke *Schonberg* fell upon, was the making himſelf Maſter of *Carrickfergus*, and of the Countrey about, which he accordingly effected: As to the reſt of his Conduct there, we have all the reaſon in the world to believe, that ſo great a General knows well on what grounds he has gone; and the event will prove, how much it will conduce to the happy determination of the Affairs of *Ireland*, that the *General* delayed to enter into any further

Action

Action the laſt Summer, and that he has put his Army in *Winter Quarters.*

As to our Author's Reflection upon our *diſappointments in the Daniſh Forces*, the Gentleman bewrays a groſs ignorance in the Affairs of *Europe*. *Seven thouſand* men are not ſo ſoon agreed for, paid for before-hand, and wafted over an Ocean, as he imagines; eſpecially when the Miniſters of the Prince who ſends them, are courted with all poſſible Inſinuations to ſtop them. And I muſt tell the Author, That it was by an extraordinary ſtroke of His Majeſties Conduct at the Court of *Copenhagen*, theſe Forces were brought over at all. And it was indeed a *Maſter-piece* to unite ſo far, the Jangling Intereſts of the *Two Northern Crowns*, as to prevail with them to aſſiſt him and his Allies, with the ſame Forces, we once thought ſhould have been employed againſt them. That the *Daniſh Forces* are a *Burden to us*, is a Calumny not worth an anſwer, there being no braver nor better diſciplined Forces in *Europe* than they.

From our Affairs of *Ireland*, our Author comes in his rambling way, to *reflect upon thoſe at Sea*; and tells us, *The two famous Nations for Action at Sea, were not only baffled by the ſole Power of* France, *but that our loſſes of men by Sickneſs and Mortality, were greater than by Fight; and in our Merchandize and Trade, greater than our Expences*: and boldly adds, That *our Merchants Ships have been made a prey to thoſe who ſhould have been their Guide and Convoy*. As to the firſt, That we and the *Hollanders* have been baffled at Sea, is ſuch a kind of untruth, as might be more pardonable in the mouth of a *French* Flatterer, than in an *Engliſh*-man. Our *Fleet* has all the laſt Summer brav'd the *French* on their own Coaſts, and provoked them by all poſſible methods, to come to a Fight; while in the mean time the *French* Fleet durſt not venture out of their *Ports*, but by ſtealth, or when our *Fleet* was elſewhere: And if our Author means, by baffling, the Action of *Bantry-bay*, never was the *Engliſh* Courage more tranſcendant than in that *Action*, when in ſpite of a contrary Wind and Tide, Seven or Eight of our Ships fell in with an undaunted Bravery upon the whole *French* Fleet, it being impoſſible for any more of ours to get up to them; and tho over-powerd with num-

bers,

bers, we ſo hotly plyed the Enemy, that they found themſelves obliged to ſtand off to Sea, with a conſiderable loſs, not daring to wait the turning of the Tide for helping up the reſt of our Fleet. And perhaps our Author in the whole laſt Years Conduct, could not have fallen upon a ſtronger argument than this, to diſprove his Inſinuation, that his Majeſties Forces *are become puſillanimous*.

No body in their right wits, will charge the Government with *the Mortality in the Navy and Army*, that being an irreſiſtible Fatality of Nature; and yet there have died more in proportion of the Armies on the *Rhine* and in *Flanders*, than either in our Fleet, or in *Ireland*.

As to *our loſſes in Trade*, It's a a thing could not have been avoided in a War with *France*, Conſidering *the wideneſs of the Sea*, *the impoſſibility of having Convoys in all places*, *the ſmall number of* French *Merchant-Ships*, *and the great number of Ours*; And that the *Engliſh* ever thought the Privateer Trade below them; and that the gain gotten upon the *French* that way, incapable to quit Coſts. Notwithſtanding this unavoidable neceſſity *of ſuffering loſs by the* French *Privateers*, *England* has theſe *thirty* and odd years paſt, always groan'd after a War with *France*; And the Friendſhip between our two laſt Kings and *Lewis* the XIVth, was none of the leaſt Grievances of their Reigns. *Now* we have our Wiſhes; His Majeſty has declared War againſt *France*, from a Principle of Neceſſity, and yet not till our Repreſentatives in Parliament had addreſſed him for it, and promiſed to aſſiſt him in it. How unjuſt is it then, to grumble at the unavoidable Conſequences of a War, which we have ſo long deſir'd, which our Parliament, on mature deliberation, concurr'd in, and to which our own Preſervation does neceſſarily oblige us. And though at preſent it may bring along with it ſome inconveniences in *Trade*, yet a happy iſſue of it will ſoon ſet us beyond a regret, for loſing a little, to ſecure the reſt, and our Religion and Liberties with it. That which our Author tells us, of *our Merchant Ships becoming a prey to thoſe*, *who ought to have guarded them*; has no other ground, than the Complaint of ſome Maſters againſt one

or

or two Captains of the Fleet, for taking Gratuities upon the account of Convoys: And the Government is ſo far from allowing it, that there has been a conſiderable Officer ſent to the *Tower* upon it: Though I muſt tell the Author, that in the Two laſt Reigns it was an ordinary practice, and no body ever call'd in queſtion for it.

What he complains of in the next Paragraph, of the *bad Condition of the Countrey, by reaſon of the cheapneſs of Countrey Commodities*, ſeems to me a kind of repining againſt the Bounty of Heaven in filling our Barns with Corn, and our Fields with Beaſts. And I muſt for once aſſume the province of a Divine, which the Author does ſo often, to tell him, That nothing but an Infinite Goodneſs could refrain from an ungrateful Nation, that curſe of making our *Heavens Braſs, and our Earth Iron*; and the rather, when a perſon of our Author's aſſum'd Character, dares to charge on the Government as a Grievance, what is the bleſt effect of a Liberal Providence. *This Condition*, ſays our Author, *is made harder by Taxes already granted, and more expected.* I cannot admire enough, that one who pretends to have a true ſenſe of the late Hazard we were in, of loſing our Religion and Liberties in the laſt Reign, ſhould ſeem to repine at the Taxes we have already paid, or may hereafter pay, in order to ſecure us againſt the Ruine that then threatned us. I have ſo much Charity for the Author, as to think, that ſome two years ago, he would willingly have parted with the beſt half of his Fortune, to have ſecured the remainder, and his Religion with it: And indeed the retrieving of our Rights and Religion, cannot be too dear bought, eſpecially when we remember how much vaſter ſums we have ſometimes given, *to render us Slaves*, than we have now given, or are to give, *to make us free*. And when it ſhall pleaſe Heaven to put a period to this War, by a happy and ſafe Peace, *England* will ſoon recover the preſent Expence we are at, in our own defence. In the mean time, Malice it ſelf muſt confeſs, that His Majeſty's Forces are not burthenſome to the Countrey; but being kept under ſevereſt Diſcipline, and continually paid as faſt as the Revenue comes in, they as freely

freely expend it again in the Country for their neceſſities.

Our Author comes next to ſhew us one of the higheſt Flights of his new-aſſumed *Dictatorſhip*, viz. to arraign before him no meaner Perſons than the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, the Kights, Citizens and Burgeſſes of the late Convention, and preſent Parliament. I know not but I may be as blameable in playing the Advocate, or in daring to ſuppoſe that the Great Council of the Nation needs a Vindication; as he to play the part of the Judg, or a Plaintiff. But I hope with all the profound deference I owe to that Auguſt Aſſembly, I may beg leave to take notice, in a few words, of *the Articles of Accuſation* charg'd on them.

The *firſt* is, *the form of the Order for the publick Thankſgiving* after the Convention ſat, *which*, he ſays, *if any one ſhall preſume to execute, he dares be bold to ſay, He has little ſenſe of the Majeſty of God concern'd in it, of the dangerous Conſequences of ſuch a fault in the beginning of their Conſultations; or what an Indication it was of an unhappy Temper prevalent in that Aſſembly.* What a full bloody Period is here! and how far does our Author's Zeal hurry him! One who had never before heard or ſeen this *Order*, would at firſt daſh conclude, That there muſt be ſomething of a horrid nature couch'd in it, as that muſt certainly be, which *derogates from the Majeſty of God*; and that there muſt be ſome odd piece of a wilful and irreparable miſtake, as deſerves the reſt of the Cenſure. All I need to do in anſwer to this, is to give the words of the *Order* it ſelf, and then let the Reader find out where this imaginary Venom lies. The Order runs thus. *Die 22 Januarii 1688. Order'd by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, That* Thurſday, *the 31ſt of* January *inſtant, be, and is hereby appointed for the City of* London, *and ten miles diſtance, for a day of Publick Thankſgiving to Almighty God, for having made His Highneſs the Prince of* Orange, *the Glorious Inſtrument of the Great Deliverance of this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitrary Power. And that* Thurſday, *the 14th day of* February *next, be, and is hereby appointed for a Publick Thankſgiving throughout the whole Kingdom for the ſame.* Thus far the *Order*; and in what part of it this horrid Fault lies, I confeſs I am not able to divine.

The

The 2*d Article* our Author Libels against the *Parliament* is, *the Mismanagement of the Affair of* Ireland; which is but a repetition of the same thing formerly said, and which I hope I have answered. Only I must here add, The Parliament did all was incumbent on them as to *Ireland*; They gave Mony for reducing it; they appointed a Committee of their Number for expediting the Affairs; they gave all the Incouragement in their Power to the *General* and *Army*, to the *Admiral* and *Fleet*, and interested themselves with the greatest Affections to *those* who had been forc'd to flee out of that Kingdom.

The *next and greatest Matter*, as he himself words it, wherewith he charges the Parliament, is, *their long debate about the Abdication.* And our new Politician is down-right offended at the Parliament, *for finding King* James's *Departure an Abdication of the Government*, and tells them Authoritatively, that *it should have been declared, a flight of a Criminal from Justice.* I have before hinted at the unreasonableness of this Complaint as *to the length of debate about the Abdication*; and I must repeat what I then said, That considering the amazing Perplexities and Confusions the Nation was in at that Time, it was rather a wonder that the *Convention* came so soon to a determination in so weighty Affair. For the word *Abdication*, at which our Author is so offended, if he had read any thing of History he should find that it was the most proper and expressible *term* could be us'd in King *James*'s Case. But I confess, that dreadful word our Author would have put in its room, *viz. the Flight of a Criminal from Justice*, does remove the *Masque*, and tells us plainly of what Principles he is. For we all know what sort of Men they are, who use to talk, *of bringing Kings to Justice.* And considering that our Author bewrays himself to be one of them, I'm the less amazed at his dissatisfaction with a Government so different from his own *Model.*

Having vented this severe Insinuation against the late King, it's but consequential what he talks in the end of this paragraph, *of bringing that King's Counsellors, Actors, and Accomplices, to condign punishment.* This Man would drench the World in Blood, sacrifice whole *Hecatombes* to his Revenge, and once more set these Kingdoms off their Hinges, by a precipitate Method, *of rendring Men desperate.* Mercy is a

Crime with some People, and no Government relishes with them, but such as *Draco*'s was of old, said to *be written in Blood*. If this Revengeful Spirit be all the effect of our Author's citing so many Texts of Holy Scripture up and down his Pamphlet, he will prove but a bad Commentator on many places of the New Testament; And among a great many Blessings we feel under the present Government, this is one, that the Reins of it are not in the Hands of some such *Phaeton*, who, if once mounted, would certainly set the World in Flames by his fiery Zeal.

But albeit Justice may claim a Victim or two, for the atonement of so much innocent Blood as was pour'd out in the two last Reigns; Why should *King* James's *Ministers and Counsellours*, all of them, without distinction, fall under the stroak? There are Noble Persons, and others, who sat at the Council-Board, and were in Office the last Reign, who *by moderating, as much as possible, severer Counsels; by giving check to the Romish Jehu's in their full Carreer; and by keeping their places to serve their Country, when it stood most in need of them*; do deserve the return of our Gratitude, and not of Revenge. Yea, it's more than probable, that if some Persons, who fall under the Author's Reflection, had retir'd from Affairs in the last Reign, the *predominant Party* about that King, had push'd on our Ruin, beyond the possibility of a Retrieve.

Another Article our Author exhibits against the Parliament, and that is, in his own words, *That a great part of the most sober and serious People of the Nation, are kept out of the Service of their Country, and the most debauch'd and profligate let in.* In this I suppose our Author means the *Sacrament-Test*, impos'd by Act of Parliament on those in Publick Imployment. To this I need give no other Answer, but that the Parliament knows better than He, on what grounds they pass'd that Act. And though I must acknowledg, that by it there are a great many worthy Persons excluded, who are willing and able to serve the King and their Country; yet it's still a Question, whether at that precise time, it was fit to lay aside a Constitution, that though chiefly design'd against the *Roman Catholicks*, affected likewise the *Dissenters*. And whether it be so or not, the Author is not a competent Judg. Here sure our Author may remember, how earnestly his Majesty press'd the Parliament

ment in one of his *Speeches* to take ſuch Meaſures, *as all Proteſtants might be capacitated to ſerve him*, and the Intereſt of the Nation: And who knows but the Parliament will alter that Conſtitution, when they are fully perſwaded the Intereſt of the Kingdom requires it. If debauch'd Perſons creep into Employments, under the cover of this Act of Parliament, 'tis not the fault of the Act it ſelf, but of ill Men who abuſe it.

In the next Paragraph, our Author ſums up the Charge againſt the Parliament, in aſſerting, *That they have been always infeſted with a Spirit of Diviſion, and that they have ſcarce done one brave or clever Action, nor inquired into the Cauſes and Authors of our evil Management ever ſince they met.* What Name to allow this Aſſertion, I know not; and to give it a harſher one than it deſerves, I cannot: That there ſhould be four or five hundred Men found, exactly of the ſame Opinion in all Things, is as impoſſible, as to find out an equal Number, of the ſame Complexion and Stature: And conſidering the arduous Affairs have been of late treated of within thoſe Walls, I rather admire their Diviſions have not been more. That they have done nothing *Brave* or *Clever*. If our Author underſtands the word *Brave*, in its proper ſenſe, the Members of Parliament, as in that Capacity, are not called to Fight, but to Conſult; yet there are few of them, whoſe Character would allow of it, but ventur'd to declare for his Majeſty, when none expected the deciſion of Affairs, but by the Sword. And to take the word *Brave* in a larger ſenſe, the Parliament has done things ſo *Brave and ſo Great*, as will perpetuate their Memories to all Ages. They have vindicated the Liberties of their Country, againſt a Prince that had overturn'd the very Foundations of them; and in the moſt perplexed Juncture that perhaps *England* ever ſaw. They juſtly changed the *Monarch*, without incroaching upon the *Monarchy*. They have applied the fitteſt Remedies to the Nature of our Sores, and it's from their Reſolutions, and his Majeſty's Conduct, we hope to be at length Happy. Our Author fondly concludes, They have not enquir'd into what they judg to be *Miſmanagements*, becauſe he has not been glutted with the Blood of the Delinquents; but our Wiſe Senate knows better to deal with a *Vitiate Limb*, than to cut it off, when it can be otherwiſe cured, and the reſt of the Body preſerved, without the pain of ſo cruel an Operation.

Having done with the Parliament, our Author makes a Faint upon *the Privy Council* and *Miniſters of State*, without naming their Miſmanagements: But upon ſecond Thoughts, and out of pure good Nature, he withdraws his Charge *for once*, and only leaves them *to the great Inqueſt of the Nation.* But this lucid Interval ſerves only to give his *Choler* time to ferment it ſelf into the higheſt Paroxiſm that ever poſſeſſed a reaſonable Man, and the Effects of it are levelled no lower than at the King himſelf. I know not which of the Reſentments, of *Indignation*, or of *Pity*, this unexampled Attempt calls for, ſince neither Malice, without a great deal of Ignorance, nor Ignorance without a great mixture of Malice, could prompt a Man to accuſe his *King* of Faults, whereof all Mankind beſides will acquit Him: And I look upon it as a ſingular piece of ill Fortune, that I have occaſion to imploy my Pen, in but repeating what derogates from ſo excellent a Prince, though in refuting it.

The firſt Thing he inſinuates againſt his Majeſty, is, *That the loſs of this Summer's Aſſiſtance to his Confederates, is a great Eclipſe of his Majeſty's Honour.* What an accountable Ignorance does our Author bewray in the Affairs of *Europe*, as they were ſtated at the Time when the *Confederates* entred into an *Alliance* againſt *France!* The very firſt Thing occurr'd to them in their Conſultations about that *Alliance*, was, *That there could be nothing effectually done againſt* France, *as long as there was a King of* England *ready to eſpouſe his Quarrel, and to ſupport his Intereſt both by Sea & Land.* To lay aſide this ſo powerful Addition to the French *Scale*, the *Confederates* reſolved upon the then *Prince of* Orange's Expedition into *England*, as the only effectual Means to deprive *France* of the powerful Aſſiſtance of that Crown. And indeed this was the only Motive that prevail'd with the *Confederates* of the *Romiſh Communion*, to conſent to a War againſt King *James* at that time; tho thoſe of the Reformed Religion had agreed to it, from a more preſſing Neceſſity, as the laſt *Caſt of the Dye for the Proteſtant Intereſt in* Europe. Now this Invaſion being reſolved on, the Confederates neither thought, nor had they reaſon to think, but King *James* would have made a more noble Defence in *England*; nor that the Prince of *Orange* could ſo ſoon poſſeſs himſelf of the Kingdom, and at the

expence

Expence of so little Blood: For upon the contrary, they expected no more at first from the Prince's Descent into *England*, but to make a Diversion of King *James's* Forces from assisting *France*, by giving them work at home; and in so doing they hop'd to gain no inconsiderable Point. But now instead of making only a *Diversion*, the Confederates have already in the first twelve Months time, received more Advantages from his Majesties Expedition, than could have been reasonably expected in thrice the number. Not only has he sent to their Assistance the whole *Quota* of Men, the Crown of *England* was oblig'd to, as *Guarantee* of the *Treaty of Nimeguen* and has added a considerable Reinforcement to the *Imperial* Army in *Hungary* by the Addition of the *Irish Regiments* in King *James's* late Army; all which Men and many thousands more, King *James* would have employed for the French King: But without putting the Confederates to a farthing of Charge, his Majesty has kept a watchful Eye upon the French Fleet, that they could attempt nothing against the *Confederates*, either on the Coasts of *Holland*, *Flanders*, *Spain*, or any where else. Moreover, instead of that Assistance King *James* would certainly have given the French King, if the then *Prince of Orange* had not been successful in his Attempt on *England*; the French King is forc'd to detatch a part of his Army, and to expend vast Sums of Mony upon that unhappy Prince's Affairs in *Ireland*, and in affording his Queen an Equipage in *France*; all which Men and Mony would have been otherwise imploy'd against the Confederates. Thus we see how far his Majesty has been able to assist his *Allies*, above what could have been justly expected of him in so short a time: and thence we have a convincing hint of our Author's small Skill in Affairs abroad.

I hope no body will think me oblig'd to trace our Author in all the *Turnings and Windings* of his Pamphlet, from *Pag.* 12. to *Pag.* 23. which for Method and way of Expression, might tolerably pass in a Quakers Meeting, and might qualify one for an Employment among that sort of People. I do not envy him his Talent of applying Scripture up and down the whole Pamphlet, to his own Scheme of Policy, which for the most part are as wide from the purpose, as that politick Gloss of the *Bishop of Beauvais*, who from that Text, *The Lillies do not spin*, wisely concluded, that the Kingdom of *France*, which gives

gives three Lillies for their Arms, cannot fall in Succeſſion to the Female Sex. This part of the Pamphlet is ſo ſtrangely disjointed, and ſo foiſted up with incoherent Matters, and Repetitions, as indeed the whole is, that I confeſs my ſelf ſcarce able to ſum it up to any diſtinct Heads. But all I can make of it is, Firſt, *A bitter railing againſt a Learned Perſon for not giving the King as good Advice in his Cloſet, as he did at his Coronation.* Secondly, *That it muſt be ſome remarkable Sin that has retarded the Progreſs of our Affairs.* Thirdly, An Inſinuation *that the King takes Advice of Flatterers, and that he tolerates Debauchery and Profaneneſs.* This is the Sum of his long Rapſody of Words.

I need ſay nothing to the *firſt*; The ſingular Learning and Piety of the Perſon, ſets him beyond the reach of Malice it ſelf: And it's the height of Folly in our Author, to charge him with a *Negative*, which of its own Nature cannot be prov'd, nor tho it could, does it admit of any conſcious to it, but the King himſelf.

As to the *ſecond*, *That it muſt be ſome remarkable Sin that has retarded our Affairs.* I ſhall not deny but Sin is the meritorious Cauſe of all the Evils that befal us in this World: But it's inſufferable to hear our Author talk, as if he were upon the Secrets of Heaven, and were acquainted with the Reaſons that determine the *Infinite Mind* to do *thus* and *thus*. Although it were true, our Affairs were at a ſtand (as I have already proved him the contrary); Does the Almighty give account of his Matters? Are not his Ways in the Sea, his Paths in deep Waters, and for his Footſteps they are not known? We ought rather, with a profound Reverence, adore him in his Judgments, than to aſſume a fooliſh Confidence in a poſitive fixing upon ſuch and ſuch particular Motives, that determin'd God to inflict them. Beſides, did never our Author hear of the bad Succeſs of a good Cauſe, and the proſperous Succeſs of a bad one, even when there could be no groſs Miſmanagement or Failing charg'd upon the former, ſo unſearchable are the Steps of an unſearchable Providence? Did he never hear of a Cauſe or Party, that at firſt ſeem'd languiſhing, and ready to expire, which afterwards broke through all Oppoſition in its way to Triumph? And yet we lie under no ſuch diſcouraging Providences at this day, as to ſtand in need of this

laſt

last Reflection of his: Our Affairs going on in a Progress suitable to the beaten Path of Human Actions.

The *third Head* of his Majesties *giving Ear to Flatterers*, is a Charge could never have been dream'd of against a Prince, that's so much proof against, and so great a Discourager of *that ordinary Bane of weak Souls*, and whom to flatter, is the surest way to disoblige. What our Author mentions on this Head, of the several Counsels the Kings of *England* use to consult in their Affairs; never was there any King of *England* who depended more intirely upon the Advice of his Parliament in the most arduous Affairs of his Kingdom, of his Judges in Matters of Law, and of his Privy-Council in the Exercise of his Government: In the *first* he never to this moment, made use of his *Negative*; the *second* he never contradicted by stretching his Prerogative; and without the *third*, he never proceeded in any Affair that of its Nature required it.

I cannot name the fourth Head, *viz.* our Author's accusing his Majesty for *conniving at Prophaneness and Debauchery*, without a just horror of the Accusation: And yet in his canting way he spends a great many words about it. That a Prince whose Reputation in that Point stands untainted by his very Enemies, who never was heard to swear one Oath, and who abhors it in others; whose Court was always distinguish'd from the rest of *Europe* by a Restraint from Vice, peculiar to it self: In fine, that a Prince, who was never stain'd with one publick or known Fault in Himself and Manners, should be blam'd for tolerating Profaneness and Debauchery, exceeds Belief. But, says our Author, *He should have emitted a Proclamation against it, as was couch'd in a Letter sent him.* What the King ought to do, neither the Author nor I am fit Judges; but any body knows how little effect such Proclamations ever had: for where the sense of Duty to God does not deter Men from Vice, a thousand Proclamations will not. This Age has not produced a more profligate Court than that of *Charles* II. and yet how often were there Proclamations issued out against these very Enormities, which were practis'd in the face of the Sun, and wherein the King himself gave the worst Precedent. Upon the contrary, his present Majesty has done more since he came to *England*, to discourage Vice by his own Example, than ever he could have effectuated by a Cart-load of Proclamations;

mations; and all know, Examples prevail more upon Men than Precepts do, especially where Kings cast them the Copy.

Tho I am very sorry our Author has so much Reason to regrate *the Profaneness of our Army*, and that I agree with him in its being a sign of the greatest Ingratitude to God for his late Goodness to Us; yet I must tell him, if he be desirous to see an Army made up only of Saints, he must seek it in another World, and not in this: And if his narrow Sphere allowed him the knowledg of Armies abroad, even in Protestant Countries, he would ever after have better thoughts of *ours*. In short, if our Author's Supposition were true, *viz. That God gives not Success to vicious Armies*; it must thence follow, that the Imperial Army in *Hungary*, whom a link of continued Victories has attended these four Years past, must be compos'd only of vertuous People; in which he will find himself mightily mistaken, there being many in *England* just now that will certify to him the contrary.

I judg it's not expected of me, that I should give my self the trouble to ramble after our Author in his long-winded Reflections up and down to the end of his Book, about *the Institution and Nomination of the Clergy of* England, and what he calls *the Faction of the Church of* England; far less that I should foul my self in the Puddle of his Calumnies against some Prelates and Dignified Persons of that Communion, since these kind of Subjects are foreign to both his Design and mine, and is a more proper Province for some of that Reverend Order, who know best how to defend their own Cause, if it needed any. And if there be any such Irregularities in the Church, His Majesty by calling a *Convocation*, has given them an opportunity to redress them. But to hasten to a Close, there being little more in the remaining part of the Pamphlet but the Repetitions of the same things. Our Author comes in the next place to blame his Majesty, *for employing these very Persons in the Government now, who in King* Charles II. *his Reign were the Advisers and Managers of illegal Projects*. How far his Majesty is concern'd in this Complaint will appear from the following Considerations.

1. His Majesty has for the most part about him those many Noble Persons and others, whose Probity and Love to their Religion, and to the Liberties of their Country, rendred them odious

odious to the Enemies of both, in the laſt two Reigns; and whereof not a few were forc'd to abandon their Native Soil, and to ſeek a Sanctuary elſewhere.

2. Though there ſhould be at preſent in the Government one or two, who in King *Charles*'s Reign might be wrought upon, through the Temptations and Snares of a Court, not to oppoſe ſome things that in rigour might be blameable; yet if the ſame Men afterwards, from a ſenſe of their Error, did deſignedly work themſelves out of Favour, by oppoſing thoſe Methods then in deliberation to enſlave the Nation, it were a palpable Invaſion on the King's own Liberty, to deny him the uſe of ſuch Perſons now, eſpecially if their great Parts and Acquaintance with Affairs of State, render them in ſome meaſure neceſſary.

3. Though there ſhould be ſome Perſons now employed, who in any of the two laſt Reigns had ſtumbled upon unwarrantable Meaſures; yet if by their hearty and chearful Concurrence in the late Revolution, or their Influence on the bringing it about, they have teſtified their ſenſe of former Miſcarriages, it's but juſt their *after-Actions* ſhould atone for the *Former*: And doubtleſs Repentance with Good Works, ſhould appeaſe the Juſtice of Man, and re-inſtate him in his firſt Integrity, ſince Heaven it ſelf requires no more.

4. It's time for our Author to paſs his Cenſure upon the King's imploying ſuch Miniſters, when we have felt theſe ill Conſequences of it, which he names, *viz. the ſubverting our Liberties*: And I hope his jealouſies of them have not come that length, of thinking it poſſible, that his Majeſty can be wrought upon to follow ſo bad Counſels, though given him; as I am aſſured there are none about him that would dare to propoſe any ſuch Advice to Him.

And, *laſtly*, may I preſume to add, His Majeſty came a Stranger to *England*, and but darkly informed of the true *Arcana* of the laſt two Reigns, and of the Practices and Principles of particular Men; it being ſo much their Intereſt to vail them from his view: Whence it is to be ſuppos'd, that at his coming to the Government, the repreſentation made him of *Perſons* and *Things*, could not but receive a tincture of the many different Principles and Intereſts of thoſe who made them: Conſidering which, it's no wonder that in ſuch a Maze of Buſineſs,

and Miſt of various Repreſentations, his Majeſty's Bounty might happen to be miſplac'd in ſome One or Other; and the rather, that a great and generous Soul is willing to put the beſt conſtructions on Mankind in general; and being ſuperlatively vertuous himſelf, He is apt to allow a ſhare of that Vertue to Others.

This I do not ſay, as if I thought his Majeſty had reaſon to doubt the choice he has made of any about him; for I ever diſdain'd to imitate the Folly of the *Athenian*, who having deſir'd *Ariſtides* himſelf to write his Name on the Shell, in order to his Baniſhment, could give no other Reaſon for ſo doing, but becauſe he heard his Neighbours inclin'd to have that Noble Perſon baniſhed. On the contrary, I have reaſon to hope, that there are none about his Majeſty, who deſerve our jealouſy: And granting there were any ſuch, we have ground to reſt ſatisfied in this, That a Prince, whoſe Head in Council, and Hand in War, has given him ſo redoubted a Figure in *Europe*, will at length find them out: and in the mean time, his Majeſty's inexhauſtible Stock of Reputation, for Juſtice and Probity, ſecures us ſufficiently againſt their ill Counſels, if any ſuch be. Beſides, there are ſo many Great and Noble Perſons in the Government, of untainted and unſuſpected Reputation, who would undoubtedly defeat the Deſigns of ſuch ſuppoſed ill Men, by their Wiſdom and Vigilance.

What our Author advances of his Majeſty's *permitting the ſale of Offices and Places*, one would be almoſt inclin'd to think, that our Author had been diſappointed in the queſt of ſome Place, which has imbittered him to conclude, That becauſe a Man of his Merit wanted Succeſs in his Deſign, Money muſt be the only Recommendation. This ſeems very natural: for he who takes it upon him, to approve or condemn as he pleaſes, the Actions of Kings, Parliaments, Miniſters of State, *&c.* muſt neceſſarily have a tranſcendent Opinion of his own Merit, and think none can deſerve a publick Character better than himſelf. But as to the Calumny it ſelf, all the World knows his Majeſty never abas'd himſelf to make ſale of Offices upon his own Account, nor to allow it in others. And if there be any Money given to Servants, by their Maſter's Clients, on the account of *acceſs* to them, or the like; this is no more, but what the Cuſtoms of all Courts in *Europe* connive at; and yet, whe-

ther there be any ſuch innocent kind of Gratuity in uſe here, I profeſs my ignorance of it; and for any other kind of ſale, I believe our Author, upon ſearch, may find himſelf miſtaken.

Thus have I done with every thing that ſeems of any Conſequence in the Pamphlet it ſelf; for it concerns me not to interrupt him in his haranguing againſt Vice, nor to do him the diſpleaſure of undeceiving him in the wrong application of his Doctrine. I come now to take a ſhort view of his *Concluſion*, which till the very laſt Leaf, is but a repetition of his preceeding Exſtatick Sermon, and merits no farther notice. But after ſome repeated religious Injunctions to the King, he reaſſumes the part of a Stateſman; and like the Pedant, who would needs talk of War before *Hannibal*, our Author dictates to his Majeſty the following *Oracles*.

1. He adviſes him *to take the Advice of his Privy-Council, and not of Private Cabals.* His Majeſty ſtands in no need of this Gentleman's Reaſons, to perſwade him to take advice of his Privy-Council in all Affairs that require their Deliberation, the Experience of the Members of *that Honourable Board*, evinces his ſo doing, though he has had the Misfortune not to make choice of them, according to our Author's *Utopean Model*. And I think his Majeſty is ſingularly happy in this, that no Body, no not the Author himſelf, dares to imagine that ever he entertain'd a diſtinct Intereſt from that of his People, which needed to be vail'd from his Council. And yet all thinking Men will grant me, that there may happen ſometimes ſo *nice Points* in managing Affairs of State, eſpecially *Alliances Abroad*, as require the cloſeſt Secrecy; and which the wiſeſt and beſt Princes have lock'd within the Cabinet of a very few Breaſts, leſt too much Breath ſhould ſoil their refined Texture. To be intereſted in *private Cabals*, is a Calumny far below the Character his Majeſty ſtands poſſeſs'd of: And becauſe He is not ſo open in his Counſels as ſome who have been before him, our Author fondly imagines, this cloſeneſs muſt not extend to all. It's enough for me to repeat, what his greateſt Enemy was pleas'd to ſay of him; *Never Prince knew better how to lay a Deſign; when laid, to keep it ſecret; and when ready for Execution, to bring it about with intrepid Courage.*

Our Author's 2d and 3d infinuated Advices, of *preventing the long continuance of Parliaments*, which he afterwards explains by *a fair diſmiſſion of the preſent, and calling of a new One*; and *the not corrupting Members of Parliament, by Penſions, Places, and Promiſes*; I know not whether to laugh at, or therein compaſſionate the Author. The *Calling, or Diſſolving of Parliaments*, is ordinarily one of the moſt myſterious Problems of State, and one of the trueſt *Touchſtones* of Skill in the Art of Government, upon it depending the greateſt Conſequences that can befal a Kingdom. And albeit thoſe whom a profound Knowledg, and long Experience, have rendred conſummate Stateſmen, are many times at a ſtand what to adviſe in ſo intricate a Myſtery; yet our Author pretends, with one ſingle glance, to ſee through the Riddle, and boldly determines the Affair, without hearing what other Politicians have to urge againſt him. And this Deciſion in any other, would appear a pure effect of Enthuſiaſm.

That all the Members of Parliament ſhould be declared *incapable of Places*, (for ſo much does our Author plainly inſinuate, is a very ſevere and unjuſt Sentence againſt Men who are beſt capable to fill them, as being ordinarily the ableſt Men of the Nation: And at the ſame rate, all the *Peers* of *England* ſhould be excluded from ſerving their Country any where elſe but within the Parliament-Houſe. That the Members of Parliament, ſhould not be brib'd by Penſions or Promiſes, I agree with our Author, and in it we have both of us our Wiſhes; for I atteſt the Conſciences of all the Members, if ever they were required by the King, or any from Him, to give one ſingle Vote, much leſs impos'd on by Penſions or Promiſes ſo to do. And in ſaying this, I inſtance the removal of one of the moſt dangerous Grievances that attended the laſt two Reigns.

Our Author might have ſpared, among the reſt, his following Advices about *the well-management of the Revenue, and the right conferring of Honours:* Since never Man ſuppos'd his Majeſty apply'd his Money to any other uſe but that of the *Publick:* And beſides, He has been pleaſed to cauſe to be laid before the Parliament the Accompts of it. The Honours He has conferr'd, have been few, and thoſe ſo well plac'd, as if his Majeſty had beſtowed ſome Years in conſidering where he could

could place them beſt. Neither becomes it any Subject to dare to intercept the Streams that flow from the Royal Fountain of Honour, or to ſtint the Bounty of a King that's beſt capable to judg where to beſtow it.

As to the laſt Claſs of Advices with which he ſums up his Pamphlet, *viz.* The *removal of bad Miniſters, the Diſſolution of this Parliament, and calling of another; execution of Juſtice on Delinquents*, as he calls them; *and the inſpection into the Accounts of the Money given by the Parliament*; we have ſpoken to them all already.

There remains only one farther Advice, and that is, to uſe his own words, *A Review of Counſels and Proceedings, which has given ſuch diſturbance in* Scotland, *and a ſpeedy Reſtitution of Matters there, to the true Conſtitution of that Kingdom.* I know ſome credulous People of this Nation, have been impos'd on by the Artifices of our Enemies, and the inconſiderate Zeal of ſome of our Friends, to believe that the Affairs in *Scotland* are in a far worſe condition than they really are; and that ſome Members of Parliament there are diſguſted. It's altogether foreign to my Deſign, to dip in this Affair at preſent, only I ſhall beg leave for this time to ſay, from my own knowledg and acquaintance with the moſt conſiderable Perſons of that Kingdom, That there are, among all Ranks of People in *Scotland*, at this very Time, an unanimous and zealous Affection to his Majeſty's Perſon and Intereſt; And that whatever may be the Miſtakes between ſome few Members of the Scotiſh Parliament, and one or two Miniſters of State, of which his Majeſty was never acquainted till after he had employed them: There are juſt now a very promiſing proſpect of removing theſe Differences by calm and eaſy Methods in the enſuing Parliament; And I have reaſon to affirm, and the Event will prove it, That his Majeſty never intended to abridg the Scotiſh Parliament in their true Priviledges, but rather to add to them; and that by a Princely Condeſcenſion, He ſhall let the World ſee, how little he values the late ſo much talk'd of Prerogative of a Crown, when by laying aſide any part of it, He can oblige a Nation that he knows loves him, and are ready to ſacrifice their Lives and Fortunes for him.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

HIS Majesty's great and generous Resolve, of going in Person into *Ireland*, declared while these foregoing Sheets were at the Press, does more than take off all our Murmurings on the account of the supposed Mismanagement in that Kingdom, since those things of which we in our repining Fits dar'd to accuse others, his Majesty is graciously pleas'd to make up, by exposing his own Person for reducing that Kingdom, and for the Safety and Preservation of the Protestant Interest in *Europe*, which must certainly stand or fall with the Event of this Important Expedition.

FINIS.

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